

June 2021



on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum



CMMFestival 2021 “Waterways for All” Benefit Scheduled for October

Following a successful inaugural event last year, the museum renews its efforts to engage key audiences to connect with CMM’s mission. “Waterways for All” will be the theme of the 2021 festival scheduled for Thursday, October 21,

“This year, we hope to acknowledge and celebrate the many ways diverse and overlooked groups interact with our waterways.”

says CMM treasurer and president emeritus Gerald H. Thomas. “The goal of the benefit gala is to engage Chicagoans from all communities to become a part of and support our growing mission to understand and explore our surrounding waters.”

The CMMFestival committee is busy planning an event that will include compelling video, lively music, and a chance to contribute to the CMM. More details to come.

the Curator’s Corner by Dylan Hoffmann

Sailing the Great Lakes for 55 Years,
Schooner *Isabella Sands* was Built to Last



The schooner *Isabella Sands* was in service for 55 years (1874-1929), had six different owners, and was never renamed. J. Randall built the *Isabella Sands* in Manistee, Michigan in 1873 for Louis Sands.

Randall had some unorthodox ideas that produced a stout and long-lived vessel. He chose rock elm instead of the traditional oak wood. His design method altered the size and shape of many timbers to secure the greatest strength. Although the cost of construction was significantly higher, Louis Sands believed it better to build things well originally, because it would be cheaper in the end.

Sands emigrated from Sweden in 1853 with no possessions and became the sole owner of a 40-acre lumber mill in Manistee.

He named the vessel after his wife, Isabella Marshall Sands. The schooner measured 132-inch-long, with a 31-inch beam, drew nine inches of water and had a capacity of 275,000 board feet of lumber.

Launched in 1874, the *Isabella Sands* transported lumber used to rebuild Chicago after the fire.

Year after year, she sailed steadily between Manistee and Chicago with lumber, avoiding major accidents and disasters. When the timber supply on the Manistee River was depleted, she was found in Traverse City and later Sarnia, Ontario delivering lumber to retail markets under different owners.

By 1922, her masts had been removed and she was used as a barge, hauling sand and other materials for a dredging company. In 1929, *Isabella Sand's* long and successful career came to an end. Lack of trade as a result of the Depression and old age had finally taken its toll.

A 28-inch-long model of the *Isabella Sands* by Chester Krusienski of Racine, Wisconsin, was commissioned and donated to the Chicago Maritime Museum by David S. Dennison in 2003. Dennison's grandfather sailed on the *Isabella Sands* as a young man. His great-grandfather helped build her in 1873 and sailed her as captain from 1883 to 1886. The model was constructed with rock elm, the same lumber used to build the *Isabella Sands*. The model will be on display when the museum reopens.

Shores of Bubbly Creek



On Saturday, May 8th, CMM curator Dylan Hoffmann and friends worked to clean the shores of Bubbly Creek as part of the 29th Annual Chicago River Day Cleanup.

“We found plenty of garbage - mostly plastic bags and glass,” says Hoffmann. “Next CleanUp day in the fall, CMM will be the host site for Bubbly Creek.”

Since Chicago River Day began in 1992, volunteers have carted off hundreds of tons of garbage and invasive plant material from the 156-mile Chicago River system, restoring riverbanks and open spaces.

Do Chicagoans Need to Conserve Water? Experts Say Yes



Climate change, cost and rules about Chicago's water usage are just a few of the reasons experts say Chicagoans should conserve water. [Click here to read more.](#)

Native Rights on the Great Lakes



For where Midwest tribes can fish and how much is up for debate, [read here.](#)

Savanna Illinois: Born to be Wild



Savanna's stunning scenery along the Mississippi River is a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts and bikers alike in Northwest Illinois. [Read more here.](#)

S.S. Badger Sails into Another Summer



Under new ownership, the iconic ship transports autos and people between Manitowoc, Wisconsin and Ludington, Michigan. [Read more here.](#)

Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page.](#)

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at maorourke58@gmail.com.

Ready to join or renew your membership?
Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#).
If you need further membership support please email us at cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org

We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

